AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An optical disk drive, comprising:

a spindle motor to turn an optical disk;

an OPU to apply an image to a coating within a label region of the optical disk; and

an encoder, configured to track a plurality of substantially identical disk speed features arranged in an annular ring on the optical disk in a region distinct from the label region and to thereby obtain disk speed data, the disk speed data ascertainable without tracking any other features on the optical disk, wherein an angular span of each of the disk speed features is substantially identical to an angular span between each two of the disk speed features.

2. (Previously presented) The optical disk drive of claim 21, wherein the encoder is additionally configured to track the disk angular orientation features, the disk angular orientation features molded within the region distinct from the label region.

3. (Previously presented) The optical disk drive of claim 21, wherein the OPU is additionally configured to track the disk angular orientation features, the disk angular orientation features defined within the label region.

4. (Original) The optical disk drive of claim 1, additionally comprising a control procedure to coordinate disk speed data from the encoder with the OPU during application of the image.

5. (Currently amended) A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable

instructions for labeling an optical disk, the processor-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

controlling a spindle motor within an optical disk drive to regulate angular speed of the optical disk;

interpreting output signals of an encoder resulting from sensation of a plurality of substantially identical disk speed features defined on the optical disk as the optical disk is spun by the spindle motor to produce disk speed data, each of the disk speed features spaced apart ~~substantially equally~~ in an annular ring on the optical disk from two other disk speed features by a substantially equal gap having an angular span substantially equal to an angular span of each of the disk speed features; and

marking a coating on the optical disk with an OPU, wherein the OPU is operated according to the disk speed data.

6. (Previously presented) A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 22, wherein the instructions for tracking track the disk angular orientation features with the OPU.

7. (Previously presented) A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 22, wherein the instructions for tracking track the disk angular orientation features with the encoder.

8. (Previously presented) A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the controlling comprises instructions for:

processing the disk speed data to determine times when the speed of the spindle motor should be increased and times when the speed of the spindle motor should be decreased to maintain desired speed.

9. (Previously presented) A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the interpreting comprises instructions for:

distinguishing between a first and a second signal received from the encoder, wherein the first and second signals result from differences in light reflection corresponding to the presence or absence of the disk speed features.

10. (Previously presented) A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the interpreting comprises instructions for:

distinguishing between a first and a second signal received from the encoder, wherein the first signal results when light is reflected off a mirrored surface and the second signal results when light is reflected by a saw tooth feature.

11. (Previously presented) A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the interpreting comprises instructions for:

distinguishing between a first and a second signal received from the encoder, wherein the first signal results when light is reflected off a mirrored surface and wherein the second signal results when light is reflected by a molded pit.

12. (Original) A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the interpreting comprises instructions for:

distinguishing between the output signals, wherein the output signals are associated with levels of light reflectivity within a region defined on a mirror surface adjacent to the coating on the label side of the disk.

13. (Currently amended) An optical disk drive, comprising:

means for controlling a rate at which a spindle motor spins an optical disk;

means for gathering disk speed data by tracking a plurality of substantially identical disk speed features defined on the optical disk as the optical disk is spun by the spindle motor, each of the disk speed features spaced apart substantially equally in an annular ring on the optical disk

and having an angular span that is substantially identical to an angular span of a gap between each two of the disk speed features; and

means for labeling the optical disk according to the disk speed data.

14. (Original) The optical disk drive of claim 13, additionally comprising:

means for tracking, with an OPU, disk angular orientation data defined by disk angular orientation features; and

means for passing the disk angular orientation data to the means for labeling to create an image having a desired angular orientation on a coating on the optical disk.

15. (Original) The optical disk drive of claim 13, additionally comprising:

means for tracking, with an encoder, molded disk angular orientation features located radially inside an area on the optical disk reachable by an OPU, to produce disk angular orientation data; and

means for using the disk angular orientation data when marking a coating on the optical disk.

16. (Original) The optical disk drive of claim 13, additionally comprising:

means for processing the disk speed data from an encoder to determine times when speed of the spindle motor should be increased and times when the speed of the spindle motor should be decreased.

17. (Previously presented) The optical disk drive of claim 13, wherein the means for gathering disk speed data comprises:

means for distinguishing between a first and a second signal received from an encoder, wherein the first and second signals result from differences in light reflection corresponding to the presence or absence of the disk speed features.

18. (Previously presented) The optical disk drive of claim 13, wherein the means for gathering disk speed data comprises:

means for distinguishing between a first and a second signal received from an encoder, wherein the first signal results when light is reflected off a mirrored surface and the second signal results when light is reflected by a saw tooth feature.

19. (Previously presented) The optical disk drive of claim 13, wherein the means for gathering disk speed data comprises:

means for distinguishing between a first and a second signal received from an encoder, wherein the first signal results when light is reflected off a mirrored surface and wherein the second signal results when light is reflected by a molded pit.

20. (Original) The optical disk drive of claim 13, wherein the means for gathering disk speed data comprises:

means for distinguishing between encoder sensor outputs associated with levels of light reflectivity within a region defined on a mirror surface adjacent to a coating on the disk.

21. (Currently amended) An optical disk drive, comprising:

a spindle motor to turn an optical disk;

an OPU to apply an image to a coating within a label region of the optical disk; and

an encoder configured to track substantially identical disk speed features in a first annular ring at a first radial position on the optical disk in a region distinct from the label region so as to thereby obtain disk speed data, the disk drive further configured to track disk angular orientation features different from the disk speed features in a second annular ring at a second radial position on the optical disk so as to thereby obtain angular orientation data, the disk angular orientation features different from the disk speed features, and at least some of the disk angular orientation

features having the same angular position as at least some of the disk speed features.

22. (Currently amended) A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions for labeling an optical disk, the processor-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

controlling a spindle motor within an optical disk drive to regulate angular speed of the optical disk;

interpreting output signals of an encoder resulting from sensation of substantially identical disk speed features defined in a first annular ring at a first radial position on the optical disk as the optical disk is spun by the spindle motor to produce disk speed data;

tracking disk angular orientation features defined in a second annular ring at a second radial position on the optical disk and different from the disk speed features to produce disk angular orientation data, at least some of the disk angular orientation features having the same angular position as at least some of the disk speed features; and

marking a coating on the optical disk with an OPU, wherein the OPU is operated according to the disk speed data and the disk angular orientation data.

23. (Canceled)